Southwest State Wildlife Action Plan & Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Workshop

Workshop Summary

December 7-8, 2006 Phoenix, Arizona





Executive Summary

On December 7 – 8, 2006, the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) (DUSD(IE)) and the Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Program, with support from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), sponsored a Southwest State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) Workshop at the Hilton Phoenix Airport in Phoenix, AZ. Forty-six natural resource and wildlife personnel attended from a variety of organizations, including: AFWA, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Fish and Game, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and DUSD(IE) (*Appendix A*). The purpose of this workshop was to unite participants and identify how DoD, state wildlife agencies, and other relevant agencies, can work together to identify problems and solutions relating to SWAPs and INRMPs in the Southwest. It is hoped that the connections established, the regional pilot projects crafted, and the issues discussed will improve overall natural resources management in the region.

Presentations on the first day were given by Mr. David Chadwick (AFWA), Mr. Peter Boice (DoD), and Mr. Steve Helfert (USFWS) describing their respective organizations and approaches to cooperative regional planning (*Appendices B- D*). The afternoon was spent in breakout groups working to answer some fundamental questions about integrating SWAPs and INRMPs (*Appendix E*).

During a working dinner that evening, participants were encouraged to sit with members from their respective states and consider possible pilot projects that could be discussed further the following day and later implemented. Participants broke into groups by state and crafted a variety of project ideas (*Appendix F*).

On the second day, participants identified five projects from the list generated at the working dinner. These potential pilot projects were then discussed in breakout groups

and discussed in more detail with the goal of determining a "way forward" on each project. Breakout group questions were provided to guide the discussion and focus the groups on some key project issues, such as determining the next steps needed to ensure the implementation of the project (*Appendix G*). After the pilot project reportouts, the workshop concluded with the entire group identifying next steps for the group as a whole and closing remarks from Peter Boice.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary				
Table of Contents	4			
Introduction	5			
Day One- December 7, 2006	7			
Day Two- December 8, 2006	12			
Appendix A: List of Participants	15			
Appendix B: Dave Chadwick's Presentation	23			
Appendix C: Peter Boice's Presentation	31			
Appendix D: Steve Helfert's Presentation	44			
Appendix E: Break Out Questions - Day One	54			
Appendix F: Potential Pilot Ideas	56			
Appendix G: Break Out Questions - Day Two	58			

Introduction

The Department of Defense is responsible for creating programs and implementing management strategies to conserve and protect biological resources on its lands while helping to ensure long term sustainability of its resources for military testing and training missions. DoD develops and implements INRMPs at its installations to ensure military operations and natural resources are integrated and consistent with stewardship and legal requirements.

Similarly, state wildlife agencies are responsible for managing and conserving all resident fish and wildlife species. As part of that responsibility, and as a requirement of the federal State Wildlife Grants program, every state has recently completed a SWAP, known technically as a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. SWAPs outline actions needed to conserve wildlife and natural resources before both become too rare and costly to protect. The completion of the SWAPs was a historic step forward in the management of protection and wildlife in the United States.

During INRMP development and implementation, an installation is required to consult with its state wildlife agency and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate its planned course of action. Similarly, a state wildlife agency is required to consult with federal agencies and other resources (e.g. US Forest Service Land Management Plans) when creating its SWAP. However, the degree to which each organization involves the other varies according to a number of factors, including resources present on DoD land, availability of personnel and fiscal resources, and regional interests.

In addition to the requirements stated above, DoD, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January 2006. The MOU requires that the three parties enter into a cooperative program of INRMP development and implementation with mutually agreed upon fish and wildlife conservation objectives to satisfy the goals of the Sikes

Act. Therefore, in order to support the goals and objectives set forth by the MOU, Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, and INRMPs as well as to bring together key stakeholders in the region, the second in a series of workshops was held in the Southwest defined for workshop purposes as the states of AZ, NV, CA and UT. The primary focus of these workshops is to create ways to integrate SWAPS and INRMPs.

Day One - December 7, 2006

The workshop opened with introductory remarks by Mr. Peter Boice of DUSD(IE). Boice described the purpose of the workshop – to bring together groups of people that are working *near* each other, but not necessarily *with* each other.

The morning continued with Mr. David Chadwick from AFWA presenting an overview of SWAPs (*Appendix B*). As of October 2005, all states had prepared a Wildlife Action Plan (available online at www.teaming.com), that details the state actions necessary to prevent wildlife from extinction. The plans include ideas for specific conservation projects as well as suggestions on ways to educate the public about effective conservation practices. Mr. Chadwick emphasized the need for collaboration and partnership with military installations, since wildlife issues continue beyond the fence line. He closed by encouraging the participants to become familiar with and learn from each other.

Mr. Boice spoke next, providing an overview of INRMPs (*Appendix C*). He described the Sikes Act, which requires installations to create and implement INRMPs, and also delineates the required elements that must be contained in the INRMP. The INRMP planning teams are obligated to involve USFWS and the appropriate state wildlife agency to ensure proper consideration of fish and wildlife. However, the degrees to which these and other agencies are consulted vary; for example, USFWS may only review INRMPs and may not be intimately involved in the creation process. Mr. Boice reiterated the hope that this workshop would promote increased communications and forge partnerships which extend into the future. Finally, Mr. Boice informed the group of additional INRMP tools that are available to further enhance INRMP development, implementation and best management practices.

Following Mr. Boice's presentation, Kate Hutson reviewed the break out session instructions and questions for Day One (*Appendix E*). Participants broke out into their

assigned groups to answer questions about the benefits and obstacles involved in integrating INRMP and SWAP processes/information.

Once breakout discussions were complete, each group reported out their top three answers for each question and wrote them up for the entire group to view. Group discussion took place during this report out. Once report outs were complete, each individual was given four stickers to place by their top four issues across all questions (see Table 1-1 for top three choices for each question from each group). Once this was complete, a group discussion was facilitated by Dave Chadwick on the top two answers for each question (these were the answers that received the most stickers and were considered highest priorities).

Table 1-1: Considerations When Integrating INRMPs and SWAPs (bullets in bold received most votes and discussion)

Breakout Questions Presented to Groups	Ideas/Answers Generated During Break Out Session
I. List 3 or more benefits to integrating INRMPs and State Wildlife Action Plans processes/information.	 Leverages funding Shines light on INRMP as dealing with large scale issues Achieves true ecosystem management Changes focus from being entirely compliance driven Avoids and/or mitigates impacts of future listings Allows focus to shift to landscape scale Reduces conflict Streamlines survey/monitoring efforts Brings attention and provides information on lower tier species – proactive management Promotes two-way information/data flow Enhances data sharing Establishes priority settings for managing key habitats/corridors/linkages Identifies buffer zones

II. Identify communication barriers between states, installations, and DoD.	 Wildlife Agencies are not adequately familiar with installations on a first hand basis (time/distance) Lack of standard methods to establish understanding of population status Interagency jurisdiction (USFWS, Bureau of Land Management, State, DoD, installations) Inconsistency between military forces Workload varies from agency to agency There is a "gotcha" attitude when it comes to enforcement of regulations Language (acronym) barriers Lack of awareness of mission/roles Data availability and compatibility Databases differ
III. Can these barriers be overcome? And if so, how (on a local and national level)?	 Experiment with job shadowing Establish partnering teams with work groups Provide opportunity for integrated training Fund travel and meals to encourage participation of all parties at meetings Engage in proactive planning Develop "grass-roots" workshops Continue to build high level contacts/partnering between DoD and individual states Share data Develop strategies to improve intra-agency communication Standardize meetings (content: status of plans, funding, changes, databases, etc) Establish standard methods/goals
IV. How can we integrate DoD species at risk into State Wildlife Action Plans and vice versa? How can we effectively share that information?	 Prioritize installations natural resources activities to reflect SWAP species needs Collectively develop integrated species lists Produce and post lists for mutual use Identify common priorities between SWAP and DoD species at risk Communicate criteria for generating and ranking (species/habitat action) priorities Determine landscape/habitat action commonalities Brainstorm ways/opportunities to share data

V. Identify ways that DoD could assist states in State Wildlife Action Plan implementation (posting information used to create these docs on FTP sites? etc?) and vice versa.	 Enter into MOUs/conservation agreements with stakeholders Establish local interagency teams to identify resources and stakeholders that could accomplish goal of SWAPs Standardize protocols Provide equipment and opportunity for data sharing (planes imagery, telemetry, etc) Draft mutual agreement of priorities Identify tools to share between organizations Develop standardized format for data input that DoD installations can use Office of the Secretary of Defense will provide direction to installations to dovetail INRMPs/SWAPs Pool funding for shared objectives Identify funding opportunities/grant writing
VI. What other management plans (i.e., USFS Forest Land Management Plans, etc) could be integrated into INRMPs/State Wildlife Action Plans?	 Plans concerning specific species or groups of species (recovery plans, migratory bird plans) State/county weed management plans Local land-use planning documents GIS maps Use plans to help with data gaps

Following the group discussion, Steve Helfert (USFWS) described in detail two successful DoD-wildlife agency partnerships (*Appendix D*). The first project discussed was the Species at Risk (SAR) DoD Legacy project in Arizona and New Mexico. The purpose of the project is to protect significant ecosystems and species in DoD controlled land in Arizona and New Mexico. The second project was the South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team, a partnership between the region's Navy installations and state, federal, and non-governmental organizations. This particular team has measured success in four of its major projects and meets quarterly to review INRMP implementation and plans future projects. Due to the fact that both partnerships established elements key to a good partnership such as overarching leadership teams, clear mission statements, organization roles, and methods of gathering data, both partnerships are growing and succeeding.

After a break, the entire group reassembled for a working dinner. Participants sat with other individuals from their respective states for dinner and discussion. During the meal, Dave Chadwick spent a few minutes describing the projects that have materialized from some of the regional planning workshops that he has attended. He

encouraged the groups to think broadly and to brainstorm as many ideas as possible. The groups identified pilot projects ranging from data sharing to the creation of new projects that would tackle current issues (*Appendix F*).

Day Two - December 8, 2006

Day two began with a brief overview of the day's agenda by Kim Fleming (*Appendix G*). Then, Dave Chadwick assisted the group in identifying which projects they would like to pursue based on the ideas generated the previous evening. After discussion, five pilot projects were identified and guiding questions were provided to the groups to assist in their project development. Though, participants were encouraged to think of all possible questions that had to be answered – from potential partners to funding sources.

The five potential pilot projects created were:

(1) Burrowing Owl Project

This group proposes to hold a burrowing owl symposium to discuss some of the strengths and weaknesses of the species. The group's goals are to reassess where the species is located, to map out current conservation efforts, to develop a working charter or mission statement, and to partner with various organizations (DoD, Partners in Flight, The Nature Conservancy, etc). Building off a current Burrowing Owl Legacy project, the group laid out its next steps, which include assessing each partner's burrowing owl management plans and gathering information about what conservation measures are currently in place. To cover finances for the proposed event, the group proposes applying for DoD Legacy funding and a state wildlife grant from the State of California.

(2) The Utah Project

This group's proposal is to develop a working group to integrate and implement the SWAP and the multiple INRMPs in the state of Utah. DoD manages many acres of land in Utah, and the multi-agency workgroup will establish priority conservation areas and identify potential buffer areas. The group proposed to meet in January to discuss MOUs and frame future workshops.

(3) The Nevada Project

This group focused on natural resources and wildlife issues in Nevada, especially spring assessments and sagebrush restoration. The group's goal is to develop lists of priorities and actions for Nevada conservation issues on and near military installations, including the Nellis Air Force Base bombing range. Upon return to their respective offices, group members will report this pilot project proposal to their staff. The group members plan to reconvene in Las Vegas in late January or early February to prioritize project proposals and consider other possible partners. The group proposes to use a Nevada Bond Program to fund this initiative, and plans to move forward without DoD Legacy funds for now.

(4) The Southwest Cooperative Date Management Project

The goal of the Southwest Data Co-op pilot project is to create a mechanism by which many groups/partners can share data. The group will develop a partnership to compile a list of available databases and compare/contrast the structure and consistency of the various databases. The group will establish a pilot study, "3 states, 3 agencies, 3 species," and break it down into two phases: 1) data collection; and 2) compare and contrast the collection mechanisms. The group will apply for Legacy 2008 funds and other seek other sources of funding for this project.

(5) Partnering Workshop for Integrating SWAPs and INRMPs – Carlsbad, CA

This group proposed to create a workshop (similar to this one) discussing integrating SWAPs and INRMPs in the Carlsbad, CA area. The one-day event is proposed to occur in April 2007. Workshop committee will invite sixty personnel from USFWS-Carlsbad, the California Department of Fish and Game, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and several California military installations. The agenda begins with morning briefs from instructors on SWAPs, INRMPs, and the Sikes Act, and continues into the afternoon with group discussions about key/local issues, data exchange/data sharing, funding

opportunities, and discussing useful resources. The estimated cost of the workshop is \$7800 and the Navy's agriculture out leasing funds are a possible source of funding.

After each group reported on their specific project ideas and goals, the group as a whole was asked to consider the next steps for the entire group. The following considerations and potential next steps:

- Post workshop summary on DENIX website
- Establish a follow up meeting in 18-24 months (potentially have in conjunction with the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association Meeting in Phoenix, AZ in 2008) where the invite list will be expanded to include participants of the Threatened and Endangered and At-Risk Species (TER-S) meeting which will take place in October 2007 in Tucson, AZ.
- Send the following documents to workshop participants^{*}:
 - o List of RECs
 - Species at Risk Website Information
 - Sikes Act Tripartite MOU
 - o Migratory Birds MOU
 - Native Plants MOU
 - DoD-U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service MOU
 - Service POC list for DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative program
 - o Range Conference Website
 - Contact information for workshop participants
 - Dod NAT Migratory Linkages of Burrowing owls on DoD Installations: Where do owls breeding on DoD installations in the western U.S. spend the winter? (Submitted by Courtney Conway FY 06 Legacy Project)
 - DoD NAT Migratory Linkages of Burrowing Owls on DoD Installations.
 (Submitted by Courtney Conway FY 07 Legacy Project)

After the discussion of follow-up actions and next steps, Mr. Boice provided some closing remarks and thanked all the attendees for their active participation.

14

^{*} Some action items identified in this Summary may have already been completed. For up to date information please visit https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/Sustain/Ranges/toolstraining/workshops.html

Appendix A: List of Participants

List of Participants

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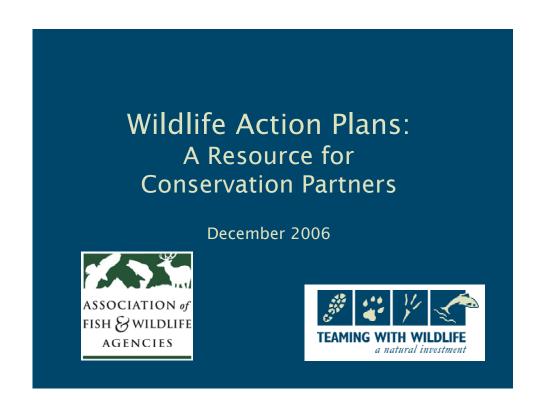
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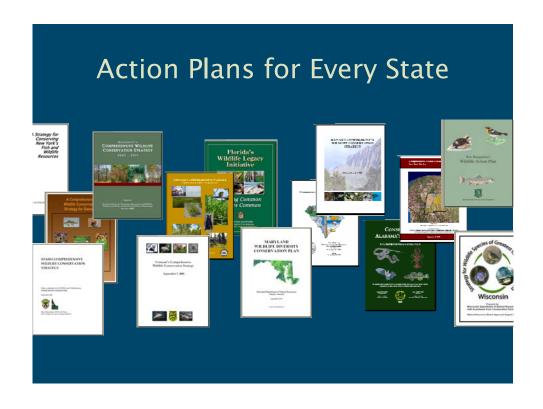
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Appendix B: Dave Chadwick's Presentation





The Nation's Core Program for Preventing Wildlife from Becoming Endangered in Every State.



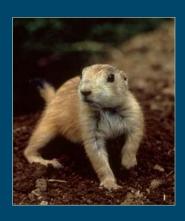




State Wildlife Grants

How It Works:

- Allocated by formula to every state
 → Population + Area
- Non-federal match25% for planning50% for implementation
- · Annual appropriations



Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program

How It Works:

- Allocated by formula to every state
 → Population + Area
- · 25% Non-federal match
- Conservation, Education, Recreation, Law Enforcement, Research
- · Dedicated funding



Wildlife Action Plans

Working together to conserve wildlife and natural areas for future generations











Eight Required Elements

- 5. Monitoring and Evaluation
- 6. Plans to **Review and Revise**
- 7. **Coordination** with other agencies, planning efforts
- 8. Broad public participation







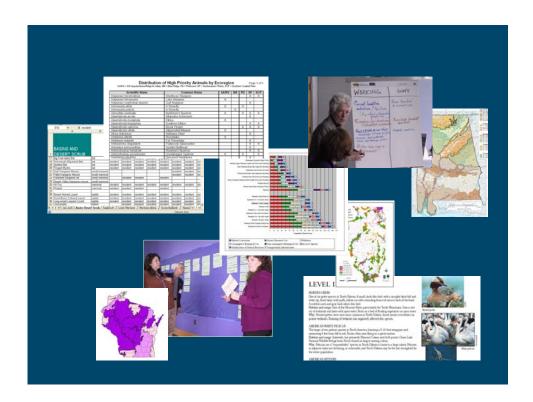
Wildlife Action Plans

Historic and Structured but Flexible









Keeping It Off the Shelf

- More Funding
- Operational Planning and Integration
- Coordination with Partner Agencies
- Policy and Regulatory Changes







Appendix C: Peter Boice's Presentation

Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) and the Sikes Act Improvement Act

L. Peter Boice DoD Conservation Team Leader

Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997

- Enacted November 18, 1997
 - Product of three-plus years of discussion
 - Agreed to by DoD, USFWS, IAFWA
- Authorizes DoD to carry out a program for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations

Need for Amendments

- Broaden scope of DoD's natural resources program
- Integrate program with operations & training
- Embrace tenets of conservation biology
- Invite public review
- Strengthen funding for conservation

Key Elements

- SECDEF directed to carry out natural resources program...
 - -- Previous program discretionary, selfimposed, and dictated by internal policy
 - -- Previous program focused on fish and game conservation
 - ...unless installation not home to significant natural resources

Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- Military Departments required to prepare and implement INRMPs for relevant installations
 - -- Broader in scope than cooperative plans
 - -- "Must fund" requirements
- INRMPs prepared in cooperation with DoI/FWS and State fish and wildlife agencies
 - -- Anticipated a truly collaborative process

Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- INRMP shall reflect "mutual agreement" of the parties
 - -- Goal: agreement on entire plan
 - -- Requirement: agreement on elements of plan within scope of USFWS and State's legal authority
- Sikes Act neither enlarges nor diminishes parties' legal authorities

Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- Required elements of plan:
 - -- Natural resources management
 - -- Sustained multi-purpose use
 - -- Habitat enhancement
 - -- Integration of activities
 - -- Public access and sustainable public use
 - -- Specific goals and objectives
- <u>Plus</u> requirements from DoDI
 - -- Embrace principles of ecosystem mgmt

Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- Program and INRMP must:
 - -- Be consistent with the use of installations to ensure military preparedness; and
 - -- Ensure no net loss in capability of installations to support military mission

Procedural Requirements

- Provide opportunity for public comment on INRMP
- Cooperative development
- 5-year reviews
- SECDEF annual Report to Congress

Cooperative Development: Partnering with USFWS and States

- Involvement and review includes:
 - Evaluating impacts on fish and wildlife
 - Ensuring consideration of fish and wildlife resources in installation planning activities
 - Identifying opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife while accomplishing other mission objectives
 - Providing technical assistance to ensure proper consideration of fish and wildlife

Bottom Line

- Congress expects that:
 - -- Plans will be developed cooperatively;
 - -- Plans will be implemented; and
 - -- Public will have access to installations to enjoy natural resources...
 - -- But military preparedness CANNOT be compromised

Other SAIA Features

- Ensures sufficient numbers of professionally trained natural resource managers
- Authorizes fee collection for hunting and fishing permits
- Authorizes cooperative agreements
- Authorizes conservation law enforcement
- 1998 amendment: Disabled Sportsmen's Access

Endangered Species Act and INRMPs

- ESA requires consultation on actions that "may affect"
- USFWS believes consultation required even for beneficial effects
- USFWS may encourage installations to introduce species or enhance habitat but:
 - No net loss of military lands
 - No species introduction w/o command approval

Critical Habitat Designation and INRMPs

- Section 318 of FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act
- Precludes designation of critical habitat on military lands if
 - INRMP provides a benefit to the species for which critical habitat is being designated

Migratory Bird Treaty Act and INRMPs

- Section 315 of FY 2003 National Defense Authorization Act
- Provides exemption from MBTA for military readiness activities:
 - Will be covered by USFWS Final Rule
 - Confer on significant adverse effects on populations of concern
 - INRMPs must address migratory birds
- EO 13188 MOU will govern other activities

Encroachment and INRMPs

- 10 USC 2684a
- DoD may enter into cooperative agreements to acquire real estate interests:
 - With States, other Federal agencies and conservation organizations
 - To preserve habitat that prevents incompatible land use

Related INRMP Tools

- DoD Implementing Guidance
- Sikes Act Tripartite MOU
- Handbook: DoD Resources for INRMP Implementation
- Report: Best Practices for INRMP Implementation
- Course: Developing and Maintaining Sustainable INRMPs
- INRMP Template
- Conservation Metrics
- Handbook: Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands

Some DoD Priorities

- Emphasize regional or ecosystem-based projects
- Avoid future species listings
- Identify priority conservation areas
- Establish conservation easements
- Manage invasive species
- In support of military readiness

Questions?

Peter.Boice@osd.mil

http://www.osd.denix.mil ⇒ DoD Conservation
Program
http://www.dodlegacy.org
http://www.serdp.org

Southeast State Wildlife Action Plan/INRMP Workshop

- · May 2006, Atlanta, Georgia
- Installation, state fish & wildlife agency and US FWS representatives from NC, SC, FL, GA
- Approximately 45 participants

Workshop Results

- · Four Workshop Teams
 - Invasive Species (South Carolina and expanding)
 - Species at Risk (Carolina Coastal Region)
 - Florida CWCS Articulation Project (Florida)
 - The Georgia Project (GA)
- · Many future partnerships!
- Post Workshop Summary available online at www.denix.osd.mil/SustainableRanges

Potential Projects from Southeast SWAP/INRMP Workshop

- SERPPAS Georgia Conservation Forum Project: Gopher Tortoise Support
- Developing a Web-based Map Tool Facilitating Interagency Plan Integration: Eglin AFB, FL
- · Carolina Species At Risk Project
- Clear Zone Habitat Conservation on South Carolina Airstrip

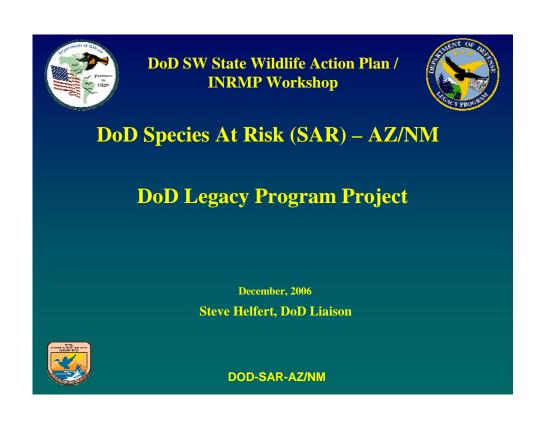
Potential Projects with SWAP/INRMP Implications

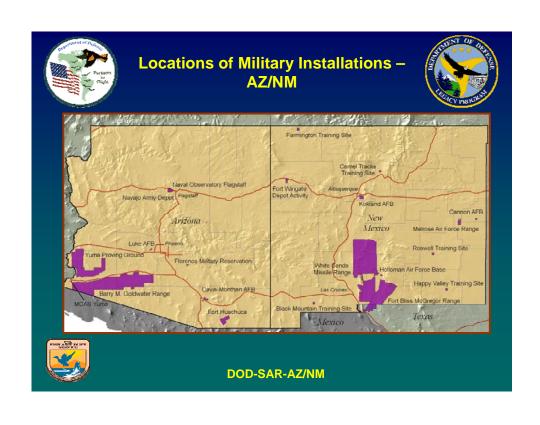
- Integrating INRMPs with the SWAP: A Single-State Conservation Assessment [UT, NM, WA or VA]
- Integration of SWAP Priorities for Shrub and Young Forest Dependents into NE INRMPs
- SWAPs: Synthesis to Identify Crosscutting Priorities
- Protection and Management of Natural and Cultural Resources in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast [N,MC]

Potential Projects from Pacific Islands TER-S Workshop

- Removal of Invasive Fire-prone Grass to Increase Training Lands in the Pacific
- Ten-Year Resurvey of Biodiversity of Marine Communities and Introduced Species in Oahu
- · Hawaii Cooperative Conservation Project
- Predator-proof Fencing for Invasive Species Control in Hawaii

Appendix D: Steve Helfert's Presentation







DoD Drivers



- Sikes Act
- Sikes Act Improvement Act
- Tripartite Sikes Act MOU 2006
- INRMPs



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



SAR - AZ/NM **Project**



- Action Items
 - A Establish 4 Project Leadership Teams for 4 military installation clusters in AZ
 - ▲ ID species at risk (SAR) on selected military installations in AZ/NM
 - **▲** Develop brief habitat-based plans for those species
 - ▲ Final Report recommendations & lessons learned
 - ▲ DoD SW Workshop on SAR Fall 2007

 - Spin off DoD Legacy proposals from DoD SAR AZ/NM project
 + FY 07 Camp Navajo/Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station
 + FY 08 BMGR/YPG/MCAS Yuma − AZ Sonoran Tortoise, bats
 + FY 08 Kirtland AFB/Range /ARNG Camel Tracks − Grey vireo
 - Cooperative partnerships outside the military fenceline for SAR conservation, corridors, and funding sources (SWESA Team)





WSMR/Fort Bliss/ Holloman AFB



- WSMR, Fort Bliss & Holloman AFB cluster includes over 3 million acres of military lands
- High diversity Chihuahuan desert basin, dunes and sky island mountain ranges in southern NM
- Project Leadership Team Army/ AF / FWS /NMDGF / TNC
- Tie-in w/ other projects
 - + Sustainable Range Initiative
 - + BLM, others



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



Kirtland AFB/Range / ARNG Camel Tracks



- Kirtland AFB/Range & ARNG Camel Tracks over 60,000 acres of military ranges
- Diverse southern Rocky mountain ranges and high desert basins in northern NM
- Project Leadership Team AF/ARNG/ FWS/ NMDGF/ NM Natural Heritage
- PLT anticipates submitting FY 08 DoD Legacy proposal – grey vireo
- PLT initiating grey vireo cooperative conservation partnership in lieu of listing –ties into NM State Action Plan for grey vireo conservation and recovery





Grey Vireo Habitat Kirtland AFB/Range







DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



BMGR/MCAS-Yuma/YPG



- BMGR, MCAS Yuma, & Yuma Proving Ground cluster of over 3.5 million acres of military ranges
- Lower Sonoran desert basins and low mountain ranges in SW AZ
- Project Leadership Team AF/USMC/FWS/ Cabeza Prieta NWR, AZCFD, TNC
- PLT anticipates submitting FY 08 proposal to DoD Legacy Program for SAR such as AZ Sonoran desert tortoise and desert bat species that colonize several hundred abandoned mines on BMGR, MCAS Yuma and YPG – spin off from DoD SAR-AZ/NM Project
- PLT same team that is about to implement new BMGR INRMP
- Potential use of Candidate Conservation Agreements & seek funding sources for collaborative conservation efforts that benefit military mission





Camp Navajo/NOFS



- Camp Navajo & Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station part of the largest Pondersosa forest in the world
- AZ mountain forest species at risk birds and bats
- Project Leadership Team already developed FY 07 proposal to DoD Legacy Program – spin off from DoD SAR – AZ/NM Project
- Project Leadership Team Army/Navy/FWS/ AZGFD
- PLT part of new Camp Navajo/NOFS Conservation Buffer Partnership w/ larger partner group – another follow on action from DoD SAR – AZ/NM Project



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



Partnering



- SWESA Team
 - + Coordinating Role
 - + Tie in w/ SWESA Team's ongoing DoD Legacy Project on SAR
- State Natural Heritage Programs (NatureServe affiliates)
- Cooperative Conservation





SAR- AZ/NM

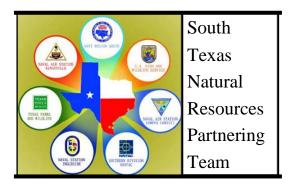


Summary

- 4 military range clusters (Army/AF/Navy / Marine Corps)
- Value added 4 Project Leadership Teams
- Cooperative Conservation
- SAR Conservation
- Protect military mission







2005 Annual Report

South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team



A partnership was established with South Texas Navy installations and state and federal wildlife agencies with the resulting team providing a forum for early coordination of Navy activities with the agencies. The South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team also provides a cooperative setting for the development of the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) and the implementation of mandated reviews and updates of the plans. Success of the partnering effort is dependent upon open and honest communication, and the development of trust and respect between all team members.

MEMBERS (left to right): Norma Barrera, Naval Air Station, Kingsville Rich Riddle, Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi Ross Ybarra, Naval Station, Ingleside Billy Drawdy, NAVFAC Southeast Pat Clements, US Fish & Wildlife Service Russell Hooten, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. Steve Helfert, DOD Liaison, USFWS

The Partnering Team meets quarterly to review INRMP implementation, plan for future projects, and discuss other actions and issues pertinent to the management of natural resources on Navy property.

- Demonstrates synergy with partners
- Expresses commitment to innovative solutions
 Supports each agency's commitments and goals
- Promotes interagency coordination, cooperation and
- Provides a forum for the timely and efficient INRMP

Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans







The Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 mandates that all DOD installations containing significant natural resources have an INRMP prepared and implemented by 17 November 2001. An INRMP is a planning document that charts the use and conservation of natural resources on lands and waters under DOD control. Each INRMP is developed to balance index DOD control. Each invitor is developed to balance ecosystem management of resources unique to each installation with Navy mission requirements. The INRMPs were approved on 16 November 2001 for NAS Corpus were approved in 16 November 2007 in NAS Collago.
Christi, NAS Kingsville, and NS Ingleside. The final plans reflect the cooperation and agreement among the Navy, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department with respect to natural resource management at the installations. INRMPs are continually monitored and have undergone four annual reviews by the South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team.

The 2005 annual review was accomplished utilizing the newly developed web-based Navy Metrics Builder.

- Fosters implementation of innovative solutions to protect the natural resources and enhances the Navy's ability to meet its mission requirements
- Represents a cohesive strategy to address natural
- resource management goals
 Strengthens Navy stewardship goals and enhances
 cooperative efforts with state and federal wildlife

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Maritime Pocket Gopher Survey



- An understanding of the animal and its habitat requirements will lead to better overall management
- Fewer conflicts with humans will allow for
- continued population growth on Navy lands
 Hopefully, the improved management actions will
 preclude listing of the species

In September 2005, the Navy entered into an agreement with Texas A&M University Kingsville to complete a biological survey of the Maritime Pocket Gopher at NAS Corpus Christi and Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Waldron

Prior to this study, very little was known about this species. It is listed as a Species of Concern by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and found only on the Encinal peninsula of the Texas Gulf Coast. Its mounds of soft sandy soil dot the landscape where it sometimes causes damage to the well manicured lawns and the installation's golf course.

The purpose of the study is to map the extensive network of burrows located on both facilities and to conduct vegetative sampling in areas of low, medium and high burrow density. Preliminary data suggests that these animals prefer disturbed areas that are mowed as opposed to areas that are not as maintained.

Naval Air Station Kingsville Prescribed Burns

The Escondido Ranch is a 6800 acre Navy owned hunting ranch located in McMullen Co., TX. The ranch offers a quality South Texas hunting experience to both active duty and retired service members for white-tail deer, feral hogs, bobwhite qual, turkey, and javalina.

Planning and coordination of burns began in July of 2005. Discussions with the NASK Fire Department determined that this work was beyond their capabilities so contact with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was initiated. After a site visit, TNC expressed an interest in assisting with the project. A Scope of Work was developed and the project was funded in Sep 2005. During the winter and spring of 2006, TNC conducted prescribed burns on approximately 825 acres of the ranch that borders the Nueces River. Many months of planning and preparation finally came together in February and April when a 12 member crew of professional firefighters from both TNC and the US Fish and Wildlife Service set fire to two separate burn units along the river.

The purpose of these burns was to restore fire to the ecosystem and promote and enhance wildlife habitat. The vegetation in this area of the ranch is a mesquite dominated shrubland interspersed with gulf cordgrass. This made for a hot fire and in some places much of the woody vegetation was top-killed.

Recent rains have caused a flush of green that has attracted wildlife to the burned areas. The mosaic pattern of the burn creates openings in the vegetation that are beneficial to wildlife for feeding, traveling and avoiding predators.



BENEFITS

- Fuel reduction
- Vegetation management
- Wildlife management
- Ecosystem management

Naval Station Ingleside

Species Surveys

Although NS Ingleside has been identified for closure by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was able to complete its species survey work on the installation. This survey was an update to a previous survey by TNC. Survey work included searches for terrestrial and aquatic vertebrate fauna, invasive plants, and the occurrence of federal and state listed flora.

Prior to this survey, a thorough literature search was conducted and museum databases were examined. This allowed for the development of a comprehensive and accurate initial species search list as well as a checklist for all species that might occur at NS Ingleside. Monthly site visits over an 18 month period allowed for an accounting of species that may occur on a seasonal basis. GPS points were used to create GIS layers of all surveys conducted.

NS Ingleside appears to be rather unspoiled and contains a great deal of diversity and habitat for both flora and fauna. The most notable finding from this survey was the Texas scarlet snake (Cemophora cocceria lineri). This species had not previously been known to exist in San Patricio Co., TX. Other findings worth mentioning are the common occurrence of piping plover and brown pelican. Both of these species are federally listed species and were considered to be uncommon in previous surveys. Very few exotic species were noted and no federal or state listed flora was observed.



BENEFITS

- Accomplishes species survey required by the INR MP
- Provides a basis for species management and preservation of natural resources
- Enhances relationships with other agencies or educational institutions by providing opportunities for research
- Enhances environmental education awareness to station personnel

Appendix E: Break Out Questions – Day One

Break Out Group Instructions Day One

In your groups, consider the following questions and discuss various answers/approaches. Record all ideas and suggestions. Choose someone to be the reporter and be prepared to share your top 2 answers for each question with the group.

- List 3 or more benefits to integrating INRMPs and State Wildlife Action Plans processes/information.
- Identify communication barriers between states, installations and DoD.
- Can these barriers be overcome? And if so, how (on a local level and national level)?
- How can we integrate DoD species at risk into State Wildlife Action Plans and vice versa? How can we effectively share that information?
- Identify ways that DoD could assist states in State Wildlife Action Plans implementation (posting information used to create these docs on FTP sites? etc?) and vice versa.
- What other management plans (i.e., USFS Forest Land Management Plans, etc) could be integrated into INRMPs/State Wildlife Action Plans?

Appendix F: Potential Pilot Ideas

Potential Pilot Program Ideas

Ideas for pilot projects identified at the December 7 working dinner:

- Create a regional INRMP between the Army and Air Force in Utah
- Develop MOUs between states/DoD/FWS dedicated to SWAPs
- Multi-agency partnership to identify Species at Risk and Habitats at Risk in Utah
- San Joaquin Kit Fox habitat preservation initiative
- Mojave Ground Squirrel habitat preservation initiative
- Restoration/Assessment of Springs (Nellis Air Force Base has some funding for this already)
- One-day short course in INRMP/SWAP integration in various regions
- Watershed Coordination
- Gila Monster habitat preservation initiative at Nellis Air Force Base
- Create a "data clearinghouse," or a single source or database, to compile data from multiple agencies (including rare information/resources on certain species).
 Could be a Southwest region website/database.
- Initiative to establish standard methodologies between agencies
- Population Biology Analysis
- Southwest SWAP/INRMP Integration follow-up workshop in 2008
- No Net Loss in Compatibility workshop
- Training/workshop on partnership building
- Regional Farm/Ag Land Protection initiative
- Overcoming Financial Restraints meeting
- Regional look at buffer effort to overlap natural resources (joint project with DoD's Readiness and Environment Protection Initiative)

Appendix G: Breakout Questions – Day Two

Break Out Group Instructions Day Two

You are now in groups of your own choosing based on the pilot project ideas presented last night at dinner. First, identify a recorder for the group. Then discuss the logical "next steps" to move your pilot project forward: What is the main goal, who will be involved, where will your project take place, etc? Keep in mind the overarching ideas discussed yesterday, as well as the following additional questions:

- What other organizations could contribute and partner with this proposed plan?
- What tools/techniques/information is needed to enhance these partnerships?
- What possible sources of funding are available for your project?

STATE WAP/INRMP PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

1 - Name and Description *Provide the name and a general description of the project*

NEVADA PROJECT

Assessment and prioritized restoration of seeps, springs and riparian systems in the Cactus Range, Nellis AFB. An initial assessment of the condition of seeps, springs and riparian systems will be followed by prioritized restoration.

2 - Goals and Objectives: *Describe the goals and objectives of the project*

Goals: Assess, prioritize and restore key seeps, springs and riparian systems in the Cactus Range, Nellis AFB, Nevada.

Objectives: Restore key habitats for Species of Conservation Priority such as desert bighorn sheep, mountain quail, sage grouse.

3 - Geographic Location *Describe project location. Attach GIS if available*

Cactus Range, Nellis AFB

4 - Partners *Identify key project partners*

2 2 die die 20 20 die 100 jy ney project pun intere					
Partner	DoD	State	Local	NGO	Other
Dept. of Wildlife (NV)		Χ			
Fallon NAS	X				
Nellis AFB	X				
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service					X

5 – Potential Benefits to Partner Mission *Describe project potential for increasing partner mission support through species conservation, habitat corridor development, etc.*

Restoration of a key habitat (seeps, springs) in Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan and enhancement of species of conservation concern including bighorn sheep, sage-grouse, mountain quail; and species within Nellis AFB's INRMP.

6 - Anticipated Tools or Products to Implement Project (check all that apply)

MOA/ MOU	Existing Program	Buffer Area Agreement	Education/ Outreach	Academia Involvement	State/Fed Legislation	Maps	Other
Х	X					Х	

7 - Funding and other Resources/Support *Provide any details on funding leverage and potential sources of support*

Legacy Funds - DOD

Nevada Department of Wildlife State Wildlife Grants

Nevada Department of Wildlife Question 1 Conservation Bond Funds

USFWS - Section 6 Funds

8 – List potentia	al sho	ort term goal	s/prod	lucts and	l estimated	l compl	letion d	late(s)
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Deliverable/Goal	Completion Date
Restoration of key seeps, springs and riparian systems	June 2009

9 - Project POC Please provide full contact information for the Project POC(s)	
Laura Richards, NDOW, 1100 Valley Road, Reno, NV 89512	lrichard@ndow.org
Bob Turner, Nellis AFB, Clark County, Nevada	Robert.Turner@ne llis.af.mil

STATE WAP/INRMP PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

1 - Name and Description *Provide the name and a general description of the project*

Partnering Workshop for Integrating State Wildlife Action Plans and Department of Defense Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans - Carlsbad

2 - Goals and Objectives: Describe the goals and objectives of the project

Goals:

- 1) Pilot Exercise to Establish Frameworks for other Areas
- 2) Involve/Sell to Chains of Command
- 3) Lead by Example

Objectives:

- 1) Development of a Meeting Template and Associated Agenda that can be taken to other areas
- 2) Develop and Understanding of Roles and Responsibilities Related to Implementing SWAP and DoD INRMPs
- 3) Foster Working Relationship that lead to Cooperative Efforts Including Identifying Funding Opportunities

3 - Geographic Location *Describe project location. Attach GIS if available*

Proposed Date: April 2007 (Mid Week Tuesday – Thursday Date)

Time: 8:00 am until 5:00 pm **Location**: Carlsbad Field Office

4 - Partners *Identify key project partners*

Partner	DoD	State	Local	NGO	Other
USFWS Carlsbad Field Office and Sacramento (CNO)					FWS
Department of the Navy (Navy and USMC)	Χ				
California Department of Fish and Game (Local and Regional)		Х			

5 – Potential Benefits to Partner Mission *Describe project potential for increasing partner mission support through species conservation, habitat corridor development, etc.*

- Educate Parties on Existing Guidance from all Partners (USFWS, DoD and State)
- Establishment of a Framework from Which to Function
- Sharing Knowledge and Defining Roles and Responsibilities
- Support of SWAP and INRMPs
- Regional Goals to Support Positive Benefit to Natural Resources
- Cooperative Funding Effort
- Grant Possibilities.

6	Anticipated	Tools or !	Products to	Implomant	Project /	chack at	1 that annly)	
n –	Anticipated	TOOIS OF	Products to	ımpiemeni	Project (CHECK AL	і тпат аттілі	1

MOA/ MOU	Existing Program	Buffer Area Agreement	Education/ Outreach	Academia Involvement	State/Fed Legislation	Maps	Other
X			X				X

7 - Funding and other Resources/Support *Provide any details on funding leverage and potential sources of support*

Estimated Cost:

- Catered Event (Lunch) Estimate \$20.00 per person for 60 People = \$1200
- Travel for Non-Local People
 - o DC (\$1000) x 4 = \$4000
 - o Sacramento (\$700) x = \$2100
 - o Odds and Ends = \$500

TOTAL = \$7800 of which is \$6600 is supported travel and if DoD support is not needed it would be \$3600

Support/Needs:

- Support from CDFG Sacramento/Regional Offices
 - o Attendance/Support from SWAP Coordinator (WHO? Coordinate with Dale)
 - Attendance/Support from Regional Directors or Wildlife (WHO? Terri Stewart)
- Support from DoD
 - Attendance/Support from Headquarters US Navy (CNI Bill Spicer/NAVFAC
 Joe Hautzenroder/USMC Mary Hassell)
 - o Attendance Support from Regions and RECs
 - o Attendance Support from Installations
- Support from USFWS Sikes Act Coordinator/Field Offices
 - Attendance Support from USFWS National Sikes Act Coordinator (Laura Henze)
 - o Attendance/Support from DoD Liaison (Steve Helfert)
 - o Attendance/Support from USFWS CNO Office (Darrin Thome)
 - o Attendance/Support from USFWS Carlsbad Office Partnership Program (Samantha Marcum)

8 - List potential short term goals/products and estimated completion date(s)						
Deliverable/Goal	Completion Date					
Draft Agenda Provided Below						
- Solidify Dates						
- Tammy Conkle and Peter Beck work identify top 10						
species/issues/habitats						
- Tammy Conkle and Peter Beck work to pull in USMC/MCB CP						
and March						
- Map of Installations- Tammy (Bryan)						
- Support Letters						
 State Letter from SWAP/Sikes Act Coordinator or State 						
Director						
 DoD Letter from Peter Boice or Tom Egeland 						
 USFWS Letter from Sikes Act Coordinator or CNO Office 						
- Contact State Directors via Dale Steele						
- Develop Briefs						
- Provide Read Aheads and Lists for Review						
- Integrate DoD Species At Risk/DoD PIF/SWAP Action Lists						
(Flora and Fauna)						

o Identify Species of Concern for the AOR	
- List of Agency Acronyms	
- Announce meeting in January/February	
9 - Project POC <i>Please provide full contact information for the Project POC(s)</i>	
Tammy Conkle, CWB	
Wildlife Biologist	
Naval Base Coronado	
Commander Navy Region Southwest	
E-Mail: tamara.conkle@navy.mil	
Telephone: 619-545-3703	
Facsimile: 619-545-3489	
Cellular: 619-954-5840	
Peter Beck	
USFWS Carlsbad Field Office	
760-731-9440	
Peter Beck@fws.gov	

Draft Agenda:

- 8:00 am until 8:15 am Welcome/Meeting Overview/Introductions
 - Summary of Identified Key Species/Habitats
 - Based on SWAP/DoD Species at Risk/DoD PIF/Essential Habitats/USFWS Species of Concern (T/E, Candidate, Etc)
- 8:15 am until 9:15 am
 - o Brief Introduction of Mission and Organization (Use Maps for Regions)
 - SWAP Brief CDFG Sacramento POC
 - o Review of SWAP Action Items for San Diego County (Identified AOR)
- 9:15 am 10:15 am DoD INRMP/Sikes Act Brief DoD Personnel
 - Brief Introduction of Mission and Organization (Use Maps for Identify Installations)
 - o Brief Sikes Act/DoD INRMP Guidance
 - o Review of Local INRMPs and Key Issues/Species
 - ESG NR Workgroup
- 10:15 am 10:30 am BREAK
- 10:30 am 11:30 USFWS Brief
 - Brief Introduction of Mission and Organization (Use Maps for AOR within Field Office)
 - o Review USFWS Sikes Act/INRMP Guidance
 - o Review Available 5 Year Reviews/Recovery Plans/CCPs

LUNCH - CATERED

Key/Local Issues - Discuss Key Species/Habitats Data Exchange/Data Sharing Funding Opportunities Existing Resources

Review Action Items and Set Up Future Meetings Future INRMP Annual Reviews

* 5:00 pm - End

• Plan on an hour drive to the airport

STATE WAP/INRMP PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

1 - Name and Description Provide the name and a general description of the project

Southwest Burrowing Owl Workshop/Symposium

2 - Goals and Objectives: Describe the goals and objectives of the project

Goals: Host a Burrowing Owl Symposium to discuss opportunities to protect and conserve the species. Attendees to include landowners (federal, state, and local), regulators (federal and state), biologists, developers, and potential litigants.

Objectives:

- 1) Provide current information on the status, ecology, and management of burrowing owls in the southwest.
- 2) Provide current regulations and policies affecting burrowing owls
- 3) Create and sign a MOU/MOA stating the signatories' intention to continue to work together to develop conservation strategies to protect and conserve the species.
- 4) Gather Burrowing Owl management plans/reports from throughout the region with the intention of developing state-specific conservation plans.
- 5) Develop verbiage for insertion into both INRMPs and SWAPs.

3 - Geographic Location *Describe project location. Attach GIS if available*

CA, NV, AZ, UT, (NM?)

4 - Partners *Identify key project partners*

Partner	DoD	State	Local	NGO	Other
DoD PIF	X				
California Department of Fish and Game		Χ			
United States Fish and Wildlife Service					X
The Wildlife Society					X
Audubon Society				X	

- **5 Potential Benefits to Partner Mission** *Describe project potential for increasing partner mission support through species conservation, habitat corridor development, etc.*
 - 1) Galvanize relationships with the tripartite signatories of INRMPS (DoD, USFWS, State).
 - 2) Provide critical information for the implementation of respective SWAPs.
 - 3) Development of standardized methods for conservation of species.

6 - Anticipated Tools or Products to Implement Project (check all that apply)

MOA/ MOU	Existing Program	Buffer Area Agreement	Education/ Outreach	Academia Involvement	State/Fed Legislation	Maps	Other
X			Х	Х	Х	X	

7 - Funding and other Resources/Support *Provide any details on funding leverage and potential sources of support*

- 1) Legacy Funding
- 2) State Funding (via State Wildlife Grant Program)
- 3) NGO sponsorship

8 - List potential short term goals/products and estimated completion date(s)				
Deliverable/Goal	Completion Date			
Discuss potential synergies with existing BUOW legacy project (Courtney	31 January 2007			
Conway - University of Arizona)				
Develop working group for legacy proposal	31 March 2007			
Develop Legacy pre-proposal	15 September 2007			
Submit Legacy full proposal	15 November 2007			
9 - Project POC Please provide full contact information for the Project POC(s)				
Robert Schallmann				
Conservation Program Manager				
Mailing Address:				
Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach				
Environmental Programs and Services Office (Code N45W)				
800 Seal Beach Blvd.				
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5000				
(562) 626-7290				
robert.schallmann@navy.mil				

STATE WAP/INRMP PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

1 - Name and Description *Provide the name and a general description of the project*

Bonneville Basin Conservation Cooperative: DOD and partner agencies will develop a working group to address natural resource issues in the west desert of Utah through conservation efforts that preclude regulatory authority and maintain sustainability of future use for DOD. Strategies will include identifying high quality buffer areas, integrating survey and research efforts and improved ecosystem management.

2 - Goals and Objectives: Describe the goals and objectives of the project

Goals:

Develop an interdisciplinary working group to address common natural resource issues and integrate management plans.

Objectives:

Agree on a set of habitats and focal species within those habitats

Establish priority conservation focus areas (geographic)

Explore potential of conservation tools to implement both Utah WAP and DOD INRMP within those focus areas

3 - Geographic Location *Describe project location. Attach GIS if available*

Northwest quadrant of Utah to encompass 11 million-acre Utah Military Operating Area (including air space).

4 - Partners *Identify key project partners*

Partner	DoD	State	Local	NGO	Other
Marcus Blood, Hill Air Force Base	X				
Robbie Knight, Dugway Proving Ground	Х				
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources		Χ			
Bureau of Land Management					X
USFWS					X

5 – Potential Benefits to Partner Mission *Describe project potential for increasing partner mission support through species conservation, habitat corridor development, etc.*

The Military Operating Area in Utah encompasses some of the states most critical habitats and species distributions (i.e. west desert, spring species, kit fox). Integrated implementation of the Utah WAP, DOD INRMPs, as well as BLM resource management plans, will help avoid future listings, as intended by the WAP, as well as protect military readiness. In addition, it will garner broad agency and partner support of shared objectives and improve relationships in the state.

6 - Anticipated Tools or Products to Implement Project (check all that apply)

MOA/ MOU	Existing Program	Buffer Area Agreement	Education/ Outreach	Academia Involvement	State/Fed Legislation	Maps	Other
Х	X	Х	X	X		X	

7 - Funding and other Resources/Support *Provide any details on funding leverage and potential sources of support*

Funding may be available from DOD (Legacy Program) and may be diverted to specific projects from State Wildlife Grants Program and the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund (state funding). In addition, by involving additional partners, including non-governmental and tribes, on specific projects (i.e. acquisition of buffer space), funding may be leverage from other sources.

8 - List potential short term goals/products and estimated completion date(s)

Deliverable/Goal	Completion Date
Charter meeting (to set refined goals/objectives)	February 2, 2007
Spatial focus area map for working group	July 1, 2007

9 - Project POC Please provide full contact information for the Project POC(s)		
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